

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE.

1912.

BARNSTAPLE:

T. J. CLARKE, 38, BOUTPORT STREET.

Rackfield House, Barnstaple,


January 31st, 1912.

To the Chairman and Members of the Barnstaple Town Council
and Education Authority.

Gentlemen,—

I have the pleasure to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year 1912.

Included in this Report is a statement for the year 1912, shewing the work done by the School Medical Officer under the Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools, 1908.



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Summary of the principal items of the Vital Statistics, &c., for the
year 1912 contained in this Report :—

Area of the Borough	2,359 acres.
Population estimated to the middle of	
1912	14,508
	Year 1911. Year 1912.
Birth Rate	20·70 20·40
Death Rate	14·89 15·64
Principal Infectious Diseases Death	
Rate	0·68 0·04
Tuberculosis Death Rate	1·72 1·44
Cancer Death Rate	1·30 1·17
Infant Mortality	106·66 77·70

(A) NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

The Borough of Barnstaple, comprising an area of 2,359 acres, is situated on the banks of the tidal portion of the River Taw, and is the centre of a large agricultural district. The town is pleasantly situated, being sheltered from the North, North-East, and East winds by the surrounding hills

A Meteorological report is given at the end of this report by Mr. Wainwright.

The town is conveniently situated as a touring centre for the North Devon district, and its facilities in that respect are being increasingly used particularly by the motoring population.

The Census of 1911 gives the population as 14,484.

The estimated population to the middle of 1912 is 14,508.

There are 3,539 inhabited houses in the Borough.

The chief occupations of the town are Cabinet Works, Lace-net Making, Glove Manufactory, and Pottery,

The Tanning Industry, which used to be considerable, is diminishing.

A large number of Rabbits are sent from Barnstaple annually for food.—They are chiefly distributed among Midland towns.

(B) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Borough is supplied with water by a Private Water Company. The supply is excellent, and ample for the needs of the area. Supply is constant throughout the district. Your Medical Officer has inspected the Water Works and finds the filtration ample. The beds are 8,800 square feet in extent. The daily consumption is 677,000 gallons. The water is derived from the River Yeo at Bratton Cross. The whole water shed is constantly under supervision by Mr. Kingwell, the Sanitary Inspector of the Rural District, and he states that there is no pollution in his district.

The open leat which carries the water for the first two miles has also been inspected and has always been found scrupulously clean and the fences by its side are well maintained.

Three samples were sent to Dr. Wynter Blyth by the Medical Officer of Health, and a special Bacteriological report was asked for, with special reference to the *Bacillus* of Typhoid Fever. The whole report is appended, in spite of its technicalities :—

3, Upper Gloucester Place,

20th March, 1913.

Report on the bacteriology of 3 samples of water received March 12th.

No. 1.—Total colonies, 146 in 1 c.c.

5 c.c. did not coagulate sterile litmus milk.

Incubated anaerobically.

5 c.c. gave no gas in Mc Conky's tubes '

No red colonies plated in Dryalski's medium.

No. 2.—Total colonies, 124.

5 c.c. did not coagulate sterile litmus milk.

5 c.c. and 1 c.c. did produce gas in Mc Conky's tubes.

There was no indol reaction, nor were there any red colonies when plated in Dryalski's medium.

No. 3.—Total colonies, 55.

5 c.c. did not coagulate sterile litmus milk.

5 c.c. gave a small amount of gas, but there was no indol reaction, and no red colonies when plated in Dryalski's medium.

From this it may be said that for practical purposes the *bacillus coli*, and the *bacillus enteritidis sporogenes* (organisms found in sewage) are absent from the samples. The colonies enumerated were evidently the ordinary saprophytic bacteria to be found in all waters.

The three waters are from a bacteriological point of view fair drinking waters.

A. WYNTER BLYTH.

Early in the year your Medical Officer, with the courteous assistance of the officials of the Water Company, made an inspection of the water supply in Derby. No leak was found anywhere, and the supply was good in every particular, except that Princes Street, Higher Maudlin Street, and Lower Maudlin Street were all supplied by dead ends, and there were three ball hydrants near the ends of the mains in these streets.

These facts were pointed out to the Chairman of the Water Company, who, without any suggestion from your Medical Officer, immediately gave orders that these details should be remedied; and within a very few days the three dead ends were connected up and the ball hydrants removed and replaced by sluice valves.

There is no doubt that by these steps the safety of the water supply through these three streets has been enormously increased.

The cost of the replacement of these hydrants is borne by the Council.

There are still some ball valve hydrants in the Borough, and it is to be hoped that the Council, who are replacing them by degrees, will see their way to continue doing so at an even quicker rate.

The Water Company now allow the 3 gall. flushes for Water Closets.

It is to be hoped that the Council will insist on the 3 gall. cisterns being put into all new houses.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Taw is seriously polluted by sewage. The whole of the Barnstaple sewage is discharged untreated into the tidal portion of the stream; but several places in the Rural District also do the same, and the common estuary of the Taw and Torridge receives like pollution from the latter stream.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are three sewerage outfalls into the River Taw—at Bridge Wharf, Castle Quay, and Pottington.

The alterations in the sewer at the bottom of Princes Street have proved satisfactory, and there has been no complaint of flooding in this district during the year in spite of the excessive rainfall.

There have been complaints of the flooding of a sewer in Sticklepath when the high spring tides coincide with a heavy rainfall. A Committee of the Town Council has been appointed to inquire into the matter and report.

SCAVENGING.

Arrangements have been made by your Borough Surveyor whereby the house refuse is collected earlier in the day than formerly. Collection is now finished by 9 a.m.

A covered cart has been provided by the Council in which all fish vendors can deposit their fish offal. This cart is stationed in the fish market, and arrangements have been made by which this objectionable refuse is carted out of the Borough and used as manure.

The town refuse is deposited in the same field just outside Derby which was used last year.

It is not a very satisfactory place for such purpose. The dip which is being filled up is only a shallow depression and does not give much depth for burying organic refuse. The tenant keeps pigs in the same field which are constantly rooting up garbage.

In the first place no plan was adopted with regard to shooting; the result was that a big heap of refuse had been accumulated on one side of the hollow, and when August with its record rainfall came, a serious nuisance was created, because the water drained through the porous deposit, collected at the bottom of the dip in the field, and from there was conducted by a short superficial drain to the mill leat.

The discharge from this pipe caused, for two days, a serious nuisance as far as the Town Mills, and several complaints were made by residents in Yeo Vale.

The Council were asked to discontinue the use of this field as a tip, but they found themselves unable to do so, and gave instructions to the Borough Surveyor to see that the refuse was deposited in a more systematic manner. Their instructions have been carried out and no complaints have been made to your Medical Officer since August.

At the same time, if the Council continue to use this site they should make some arrangement with the owner and the tenant, whereby the keeping of pigs there should be discontinued.

The number of covered ash-bins is still smaller than it ought to be. Many of the ash-boxes are filthy, and it is quite impossible to get them clean.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Water closets are usual everywhere in the district. There are, however, some earth closets in Raleigh and Bradiford. Your Medical Officer and the Sanitary Inspector have inspected these and many of them are very badly kept.

In the first place the tenant will not empty them often enough. Secondly, in nine cases out of ten they will use coal ashes instead of earth, and in the 10th case they do much worse and use chloride of lime.

Probably this misuse of the most sanitary of all forms of closet is due to ignorance quite as much as laziness ; and the Council should issue a printed circular to be put up in all earth closets stating in plain language that the pans should be emptied once a day ; that nothing but dry earth should be used, and that the resulting humus makes the best of all garden dressings.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following is the Report of your Sanitary Inspector.

Pilton,

Barnstaple,

January, 1913.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to report the following :—

Number of Complaints received during the year.....	.....	175
„ Houses inspected „ .....	.....	363
„ Statutory Notices served „ .....	.....	51
„ Preliminary Notices given „ .....	.....	96
„ Official Reports made „ .....	.....	17

Number of Houses re-drained throughout with new connections to sewers	124
„ House drains repaired and put in order	40
„ Dwelling houses made reasonably habitable	117
„ Houses condemned as unfit for human habitation	16
„ New water closets built	29
„ Water closets repaired	94
„ Privies converted into earth closets	3
„ Privies converted into water closets	1
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	65
„ Workshops, Bakehouses and Outworkers' premises	156
„ Common Lodging Houses	14
„ Slaughterhouses	220
Cases of Overcrowding abated	4
Heaps of Manure, etc., removed, and various nuisances abated	21
Number of Houses disinfected after Infectious illness	63
„ Houses cleaned and limewashed	32
Quantities of Disinfectants served out	1597
Samples of Milk taken, 6 ; Water, 1	7
Condemned.....	0

The carcasses of 6 bullocks, 2 forequarters of another as well as the offal have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and destroyed ; also three lots of unsound fish seized and destroyed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN HILL, A.R.S.I

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Of these there are two ; one is scrupulously well kept.

The other was adversely reported on by Dr. Wheaton, and since then has been inspected by your Medical Officer and by the Sanitary Inspector, and as the result of that inspection there has been some improvement.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Fellmongers 2.

Fried fish shops 4.

Manufacture of tar and sulphate of ammonia 1.

No complaints have arisen in respect of these.

SCHOOLS.

The Medical inspection of Schools is carried out by Mr. S. R. Gibbs. This work and that of the Medical Officer of Health are carried out from the same office. Your two Officers' work in close association. This arrangement has received the sanction of the Local Government Board.

The Schools are in good order throughout. Certain sanitary improvements have been carried out at the Roman Catholic School in accordance with the suggestions made by your M.O.H.

Lavatory accommodation for teachers is still insufficient in one school. And in two schools the cloak room accommodation is not sufficient.

The School Medical Inspector's report is included below :—

Bear Street,

Barnstaple,

January, 1913.

To the Barnstaple Education Committee.

Miss Wright and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the 5th Annual Report upon the Medical Inspection of School Children in the Borough, and I shall follow the plan of previous years in dividing the subject matter into the following heads :—

A. The general and Sanitary arrangements of the Schools.

B. The arrangements adopted for carrying out the Inspection.

- C. The scope and extent of Medical Inspection during the year.
- D. The physical condition as revealed by Medical Inspection.
- E. The action taken in regard to treatment.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS DURING THE YEAR.

A. GENERAL AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

There are eleven Public Elementary Schools in the Borough containing 14 departments : The total number of children on the books at the end of the year was 1898 showing a drop of 140 as compared with the previous year. There can be little doubt that there are many children in the town of School age who are not on the School register, and it is of importance that this should be remedied, as with an increasing population the number of scholars on the books is decreasing. It would be advisable either having a census of children taken in the Borough, or some other means to ascertain the total number of children in the Borough who should be attending school.

The Children were distributed as follows : I have stated the numbers attending at the close of 1911, for comparison.

	1912	1911
Blue Coat	158	180
National Girls	143	170
National Infants	158	112
Holy Trinity Boys	116	135
Holy Trinity Girls	126	153
Ashleigh Road Council School	287	320
Cyprus Terrace Infants	103	99
Pilton Mixed	119	145
Pilton Infants	104	111
Roman Catholic	88	106
St. Mary Magdalene Mixed ...	125	148
St. Mary Magdalene Infants ..	83	71
Wesleyan Mixed	185	212
Wesleyan Infants	103	76
	<hr/> 1898 <hr/>	<hr/> 2038 <hr/>

HEATING ARRANGEMENTS :

These continue to be quite satisfactory.

VENTILATION :

This is satisfactory in all the Schools and is obtained by Tobin's Tubes, Boyles' Valves, Swing Windows, etc.

LIGHTING :

This is good at all the Schools.

CLOAK ROOMS :

The accommodation in this department continues to be insufficient as reported in the Report for 1911.

CLEANLINESS OF CLASS ROOMS :

This is satisfactory, and the work is well done.

WATER SUPPLY :

Excellent in every way ; but the washing accommodation in several of the Schools is insufficient.

SANITARY OFFICES :

There is no lavatory accommodation for the teachers in one of the Schools : otherwise there are no complaints.

EQUIPMENT :

This still shows improvement.

B. ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARRYING OUT SCHOOL INSPECTIONS.

The examination of this year has been occupied into the following groups :

- (1) Entrants to the Infant School : ages, 4-5.
- (2) Entrants to the Upper School : ages, 7-8.
- (3) All children between the ages of 10-11, on Jan. 1st, 1912.
- (4) Leavers : ages, 13-14.

This is the first year that the children of 10-11 have been examined, and this examination completes the series of 4 examinations during a child's school life.

Also a large number of children who were marked for supervision at previous examinations have been re-examined, some being referred for treatment, and others for future supervision.

Also, children referred for treatment at previous examinations have been examined on several occasions to see the result of treatment, and also whether directions and advice sent to parents has been acted upon.

During the present year I hope to go more into this subject and ascertain how many children referred for treatment actually receive treatment, and improve as the result ; but roughly speaking I expect about 50 per cent. of children referred for treatment do actually receive it.

The task of following up these cases would be rendered very much easier with the assistance of a school nurse or visitor, as also would the examination of the children at the schools. As at present carried out, a great deal of the work in connection with weighing and measuring the children is carried out by the head teachers, whose co-operation and invaluable assistance in the medical work it would be impossible to overestimate.

The examinations have been all carried out in School premises and during School hours, with very little disturbance to the work.

The attendance of parents has been much more satisfactory. A renewed effort was made to persuade parents to attend.

The following letter was drafted during the year, and a copy was sent to each parent whose child was to be examined some weeks before the actual examination, with a request to fill it up and return ; and then a few days before the actual examination another urgent request was sent each parent stating the date and place of examination :—

Dear Sir (or Madam),

Would you kindly state whether your child has had any of the following diseases by putting "yes" or "no" against them. Also would you state anything else you consider of importance that might assist the Doctor in his Examination.

I will let you know when I am visiting the School for the purpose of examining your child, and should be very pleased to see you at the Examination should you care to attend.

DISEASES.

Measles.....
 Chickenpox.....
 Diphtheria
 Whooping Cough.....
 Scarlet Fever.....
 Other Illnesses.....

In addition to this I made a special effort by paying a second or even third visit to the School at later dates, and again informing the parents in order to give them another chance of attending, only examining on the 1st visit those children whose parents were present, and leaving to my last visit those whose parents no persuasion could reach. The result of these efforts has been satisfactory and the greatest good feeling exists among the parents towards the Inspection. In no case have I met with any objections. During 1912 this method was only tried with a limited number of admissions in the latter half of the year, but its success has led me to attempt it for each form of Examination during 1913.

Admissions.	No of families	Mothers
No. of children.	or institutions.	present.
240	160	128
—	—	(80 per cent.)

In addition to this there have been a certain number of verminous children who have been closely followed up. At most of the Schools the Head Teacher has a list of those children whose cleanliness leaves anything to be desired, whom he examines at frequent intervals, and if not satisfied refers again to me.

(C) EXTENT AND SCOPE OF THE MEDICAL
INSPECTION DURING THE YEAR.

	1912		1911
Visits to Schools and Departments	105	...	110
Number of children examined	1,036	...	919
Entrants	294	}	278
Leavers (probable)	162		
Children between 10 and 11	199		
As the result of defects noted in previous examinations	381	...	641
Number referred for treatment as the result of all examinations	341	...	181
Referred for supervision or subsequent examination	193	...	162

The increase in the number referred for treatment is explained by the increase in the number of children undergoing complete examination, and also that it includes all children referred as the result of all examinations, and also that as regards teeth and cleanliness I have referred more children with slighter defects, especially as regards the latter.

DISEASES REFERRED FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

	1912		1911
Adenoids	46	...	23
Tonsils	63	..	26
Enlarged Glands	3	...	6
Eye Diseases	61	...	39
Ear Diseases	7	...	4
Verminous Diseases.....	68	...	33
Dental Treatment	125	...	81
Skin Diseases	17	...	4
Enlarged Thyroid	9	...	1
General Debility	7	...	1
Spinal Curvature	3	...	3
Emnesis	2	..	1
Lungs, (not necessarily Tuberculosis)	3	...	
Heart	3	...	
General Causes	13	...	
	<hr/> 420 <hr/>		<hr/> 212 <hr/>

D. PHYSICAL CONDITION AS REVEALED BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

NUTRITION :

Good as a general rule.

Age.	No. Examined.	Males.		Females.	
		Height.	Weight.	Height.	Weight.
4-5	106	3ft 3½ins.	2st. 9lbs.	3ft. 3½ins.	2st. 6½lbs.
5-6	68	3ft. 5ins.	2 10½	3 6	2 9
6-7	20	3ft. 6½ins.	2 11½	3 6	2 12½
7-8	63	3ft. 8ins.	3 2½	3 8½	3 3
8-9	47	3ft. 10ins.	3 8	3 10½	3 5
9-10	34	4ft. 0½ins.	3 11	4 1½	4 0
10-11	143	4ft. 4ins.	4 7½	4 4½	4 9
11-12	98	4ft. 4ins.	4 9½	4 5	4 7½
22-13	77	4ft. 6½ins.	5 3½	4 8	5 4
13-14	62	4ft. 8½ins.	5 7	5 3½	6 0½
14-15	6	5ft. 1ins.	6 11	4 10½	6 1½

CLEANLINESS.

The improvement in cleanliness still continues to be noticeable. Most of the head teachers have lists of these children who are not very clean, and keep them under supervision.

The reason that so many children have been referred for treatment for nits is explained by the fact that a stricter standard of cleanliness is now set, and children who previously had been marked for supervision only are now referred for treatment.

The boots of the children in some of the poorer quarters still leaves much to be desired, but an extra effort has been made in cases which are not met by the boot club ; i.e. in younger children, to help the parents to get boots for the children, and several willing helpers have rendered much assistance in this direction.

RINGWORM.

There have been very few cases of this disease in the schools, and these cases have been slight, and have soon answered

to treatment. No child who has been absent with ringworm is allowed to return to school until it has been passed by the school Medical Officer. This effectually prevents the disease spreading.

CARIOUS TEETH.

The teeth of the children in this neighbourhood are very bad. No less than 125 children being referred for treatment during the year. Arrangements have been made by which the parents of children referred can, on application to the Education Authority, should they be considered deserving cases unable to afford private treatment, obtain recommends for the North Devon Infirmary. Two honorary dental surgeons have been appointed who treat such cases, and they have reported to me that during 1912 they have attended 71 children in all, and have filled 54 teeth and extracted 130. This I think has more than met the expectations of the Authority, as a number of the other children referred have received treatment privately. The number of fillings is small compared with extractions, but this is due to the extra time taken in filling the teeth and also to the fact that it is difficult to make the children attend regularly. Anyhow it is a great step in advance, as previous to the present arrangements very few of the children had any treatment at all.

NOSE AND THROAT.

The children referred for Tonsils and Adenoids show a large increase. This is explained by the larger number of children undergoing complete examination, and the number who have been referred a second time owing to no treatment being given.

GLANDULAR ENLARGEMENTS.

A large number of children still show signs of slight glandular enlargement especially during dentition and as the result of pediculosis, but few are bad enough for treatment, 3 only being referred for treatment.

EYE DISEASES AND VISION.

The number referred for defective vision still shows a considerable increase, but this is largely explained by the fact that many are the same cases referred in previous years, and also many are cases who have had glasses but are not wearing them either because they are lost, or broken.

The replacing of broken spectacles still presents a difficulty, but as regards the actual ordering of the glasses in the first place and the treatment of eye diseases there is little difficulty as both the Infirmary and Dispensary give ample opportunity for parents whose children require glasses.

EAR DISEASE.

Seven cases of ear disease were referred.

ENLARGED THYROID.

No less than 9 cases were referred for treatment during the year, which is an increase on previous years. Most of the cases were very slight, and were nearly all girls.

SPINAL CURVATURE.

Two cases were referred.

LUNGS.

One of these was probably Tuberculous but improved considerably on treatment and a rest from school.

One was a typical Bronchiectasis, and also improved on treatment and has since left school.

The third was referred on suspicion of Tubercular trouble.

HEART AND GENERAL DEBILITY.

Three children were referred for treatment for valvular trouble of the heart, and thirteen for general debility.

E. ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MEDICAL TREATMENT.

This has not altered since my last report, but a closer working has been affected between the Attendance Officer and myself.

The Attendance Officer visits me weekly and presents me with a list of children who are remaining at home without a medical certificate, and the parents of these children are given the chance

of bringing their children to see me at my office with a view to deciding whether they are fit or not to go to school. If they refuse to do this, and refuse to obtain a medical certificate they are then proceeded against for not sending their children to school.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

STANLEY R. GIBBS.

FOOD.

There are 30 dairies and milkshops on the register and they are frequently inspected. No complaints have arisen with regard to any of them.

A private report was made to your M.O.H. that a boy working with a dairyman and delivering milk was said to be suffering from tuberculosis of one finger and that he had a running wound there. The dairyman was at once interviewed, and it was found that the boy was no longer so employed. It is hoped that the report of this incident may be enough to warn all dairy-keepers that medical advice should be insisted on for all employes who may have sores on the fingers.

Six samples of milk were sent to Dr. Wynter Blyth for Bacteriological Examination and report. The following is his summary. The detailed tests are not presented in this report.

Summary of Examination of Six Samples of Milk.

The standard usually adopted as to number is a million bacteria per c c. All these milks contain less.

There is no evidence of disease of the udder in any one of the six.

There is no evidence of ob. tuberculosis, but the best test for this is subcutaneous injection into guinea-pigs, this has not been done—but the process used would have detected tuberculous disease of the udder.

The standard for b. coli is that there should be no b. coli in any quantity less than 1 c.c. Save in No. 1, the rest of the milks do not attain this standard.

A. WYNTER BLYTH.

9th February, 1912.

During the year the Council have adopted the Model Regulations; 1885, for Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds.

Copies of these regulations have been forwarded to all persons concerned in the milk supply of the Borough.

OTHER FOODS.

During the year Six bullocks have been surrendered as suffering from tuberculosis, of these five were condemned in toto, and of the sixth the forequarters only were destroyed. One other bullock was condemned and the whole carcase destroyed, as it had suffered from peritonitis and pleurisy as the result of a large abcess near the stomach of unknown bacterial origin. It was not tubercular.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are five private and two public slaughter-houses. They are all frequently inspected, and they are all very well kept.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are no under-ground bakehouses. The 20 above ground are well kept.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The following report is made by Mr. R. S. Eddy, Chief Constable of the Borough, who is your Inspector under the Act :—

Barnstaple Borough Police,
19th day of February, 1913.

Samples purchased during 1912.

Sample.	No. of Samples taken.	Result of Analysis.
Butter	10	Genuine.
Cheese	5	"
New Milk	14	3 Samples contained added water.
Scotch Whiskey ..	2	Genuine.
Skimmed Milk	6	1 Sample contained added water.
Lard	1	Genuine.
Mustard	1	"
Sugar	1	"

RICHARD S. EDDY,
Chief Constable.

The vendors of the four samples of milk which contained added water were proceeded against. Three were convicted and the fourth had to pay costs.

HOUSING.

Appended is the tabular statement of work done under Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations of 2nd September, 1910 :—

No. of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17	.....	.....	.....	216
„ Considered to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health	.....	.....	.....	182
„ In which defects were remedied without the making of a Closing Order	.....	.....	.....	112
„ Representations to Local Authority with a view to making Closing Order	.....	.....	.....	21
„ Closing Orders made	.....	.....	.....	21
„ Which after the making of Closing were put into fit state for habitation	.....	.....	.....	5
„ Houses demolished after Demolition Order	.....	.....	.....	8
General character of defects found to exist	{ Defective drainage, unpaved yards, windows not opening top & bottom.			

A very great improvement has been made this year in one of your worst districts. All the houses in the Belle Meadow, Zion's Place area have been inspected, and defects remedied in most of them. In some instances a closing order has been made, and subsequently for some very dilapidated houses in courts demolition orders have been made by the Council.

Over 80 houses in Derby have been inspected, and these, too, have been put into a condition fit for human habitation.

There are still several groups of cottages which have been inspected and reported on, but which up to the present have not been repaired. These should be dealt with in the near future by the Council.

The percentage of houses which show sanitary defects is very high, but it must be remembered that the major part of this year's work has been directed to the older and worse parts of the town, to dwellings whose rent is from 2/- to 4/- per week.

This class of house has not been kept in good repair in the past, consequently the owner finds himself compelled now to do in one year what might have been spread over several.

Taken on the whole, the houses whose rent is within the means of the casual labourer are very old and generally insanitary.

There is ample accommodation for the artisan class in the town, all recent new construction having been more suitable for their requirements than for the labourer class. Recently new construction has not been so rapid as it was a few years back ; but it keeps level with the increase of population.

If, however, the Council were to condemn all houses which are undesirable the labourers would very shortly be homeless. Hence the best that can be done at present is to insist on the present dwelling-houses being put into proper habitable repair.

Four cases of over-crowding have occurred and have been remedied.

All new construction is very carefully supervised the by Council and its officials.

(C) SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Your Sanitary Inspector has been able this year to give more time to the matter of house inspection, owing to the arrangement made last year by which the Clerk of the Works attends to drain testing in new houses. This house inspection work requires much perseverance and it is mainly owing to his persistence that the Belle Meadow district has been so enormously improved during the past twelve months.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The Borough is provided with a temporary Isolation Hospital which could hold 18 patients in three wards.

Early in the year the Council were prepared to consider the question of providing the fourth ward foreshadowed in the report for 1911, but on the advice of the Medical Officer action was postponed, because a scheme has been brought forward by which the Barnstaple and South Molton Urban and Rural districts would combine to form one Isolation Hospital for the four districts. If this plan can be pushed forward it would be a very great advantage to the district.

And this Council, as the only one of the four Sanitary Authorities who have taken any steps in the matter, might do something in this direction by calling a meeting with the other Authorities discuss the scheme suggested by Dr. Adkins.

Dr. Reece, in his report on Poliomyelitis in North Devon, has called attention to the lack of Isolation Hospitals throughout the Northern part of the County.

The Hospital was opened once during the year. On May 26th, a case of Enteric was notified at 7.30 p.m. on the Saturday night. The Hospital Committee met at 8.45 p.m.

The Nurse arrived by 9 a.m. Sunday morning and the patient was admitted at 9 p.m. the same day.

The Hospital was ready and waiting for the patient at 1 p.m., and the Nurse, on being questioned, said that in an emergency she could have been ready in two hours after her arrival.

It must be remembered that this was in May when the weather was warm and the Council had the advantage of getting the Nurse who looked after the Hospital on the previous occasion.

It would however, seem a fair estimate to say that the Hospital is capable of being opened to admit a patient within 12 hours of notification if it happens on a week-day. To attain this end it would be necessary that your Borough Surveyor, who is responsible for the stores, should be called to the initial Hospital Committee meeting and that your Sanitary Inspector should receive earlier notice of when to remove the patient.

It should be mentioned that there was no particular urgency about this case and your Medical Officer purposely avoided hurrying anyone so as to be able to form some standard of comparison in future.

It would save some time if your M.O.H. were given leave to instruct the caretaker to light fires as soon as he receives the notification ; no great harm would be done if the Hospital Committee decided not to open.

There is no accommodation in the district for Small Pox patients. A further reference to this matter will be found elsewhere in this report.

LOCAL AND ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

LOCAL ACTS. BARNSTAPLE MARKET ACT, 1852.

Provisional Order, 1907, Partially Repealing & Altering Above.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Amendments Act, 1890, Parts 2, 3, 4, and 5. The whole of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, except Sections 48, 51, 68, 78, 82, 84, 85, 91, 92, 93, and 94.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

Special Bacteriological reports have been obtained by the Council on Samples of milk and on the water supply.

The County Medical Officer continues to make Bacteriological examinations for all practitioners in your district. The figures for 1912 are not available, but during 1911 63 examinations in all were made for patients in this district.

These facilities are very greatly valued by the Medical Men in the town.

(D) PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of notifiable diseases during the year is 162, these figures include Phthisis for the first time. There has been no case of Acute Poliomyelitis this year, and Enteric shews a vast improvement over last year ; Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever both show an increase.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
Small-pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria	35	16	2	22	13	9	29
Erysipelas	7	9	11	9	8	4	8
Scarlet Fever	19	101	54	7	3	6	83
Typhus Fever							
Enteric Fever...	16	13	4	6	6	49	4
Relapsing Fever							
Continued Fever							
Puerperal Fever	1			1			
*Acute Poliomyelitis.....						1	
*Cerebro-spinal Meningitis							
‡Pulmonary Tuberculosis							38

* Made notifiable in August, 1911.

‡ All cases Pulm. Tuberc. made notifiable January, 1912

SCARLET FEVER.

83 Cases have been notified in the 12 months.

The age distribution of the cases is :—

Under 5 years	.....	4
5 to 10 „	.....	42
10 to 15 „	.....	24
Over 15 „	.....	13
		<hr/> 83

14 cases occurred in the first 4½ months, there was then a complete freedom from the disease until November. From Nov. 3rd to December 31st, 69 cases were notified. One case died, with that exception all of the cases have been of the very mildest type. Those since November 3rd particularly so.

Scholars from 16 different schools were effected. 2 Schools were closed, having 11 cases in each in a very short time after Nov. 3rd.

The outbreak on November 3rd was interesting, 2 cases were notified on that day, both with the rash well out, one from the Wesleyan Infants School and one from the Barnstaple Girls. No connection whatever could be traced between these two cases, but a child was discovered in the Barnstaple Girls School who was peeling, and another suspicious case of peeling was found in the Infirmary from which it is believed the 5 cases there took their origin.

Isolation could not have stopped this epidemic, but it is very important that parents should be more careful with regard to isolation in their own homes. Several instances of the very grossest negligence have been noticed and but for the luck of an extremely mild type of the disease being the rule, many a parent might now be regretting their neglect of ordinary precautions.

This is again an opportunity for urging on the Council the value of appointing a health visitor who could keep the infected houses constantly visited.

With mild cases such as have been the rule it is obvious that the doctor in attendance cannot be constantly looking in on his patient for the whole 6 weeks of their isolation, as the expense thus incurred by the parents would be out of all proportion to the seriousness of the illness.

The Education Authority were asked by the Town Council to extend the Xmas holiday by one week in the hopes that the infection might die out before the schools reassembled.

Inquiry showed conclusively that milk was not an agency in the spread of the disease.

ENTERIC FEVER OR TYPHOID.

4 Cases of this disease have been notified during the year. Of these one was a case admitted to the Infirmary from the Rural district for an accident and he developed the disease soon after admission. There is no doubt that he was infected before admission.

Of the remaining three, 2 were successfully nursed in their own homes, and one was admitted and nursed in your isolation hospital. No case died.

Case 1 was notified on April 12th from the Yeo Vale district. The mother of the child had suffered from this disease in 1909. They were then living next door. The mother objected to the child's removal and the father and brother were sent out and the mother nursed the child at home.

March 28th may be taken as the day of onset. March 13th or 14th is therefore the probable date of infection.

Nothing in her diet could be found to account for it, and the water supply and milk supply were above suspicion.

The house is situated over the old bed of the river Yeo filled in when the land was reclaimed for building. There was found next door a defective drain which had only quite recently been unblocked.

Case 2. A child of 9 notified on May 24th, from the Derby district. Probable date of infection May 2nd, certainly not earlier. On enquiry it was found that she had eaten periwinkles from Instow about the beginning of May. Probably this was the source of infection. There were 6 children, and the parents in a cottage containing 3 bedrooms, and it was therefore quite impossible to nurse her at home. A brother of the child's father lived next door who had had 2 cases in his house in August, 1911.

Case 3. A child of 10 notified on September 9th from Derby. Probable date of infection, August 17th. The source of infection could not be traced. All the drains in this house had been relaid in the spring and they were now of course in perfect order.

This gives an attack rate of 0.27 per 1000, which is the lowest we have had for 10 years.

DIPHTHERIA.

There have been 29 notifications of this disease,

2 of these are cases belonging to the Rural district and admitted to the Infirmary. This leaves 27 cases for the Borough of which 3 died. All 3 deaths were under 15 years of age and one was under 1 year.

The death rate of these cases is equal to 33.32 per 1000.

A large proportion of the cases have been severe and tracheotomy or intubation has been frequent.

All the fatal cases were of the laryngeal type.

The County Medical Officer has examined many swabs for Medical men in the town.

The Sanitary Authority has supplied the Antitoxin.

The cases have been scattered throughout the town and widely distributed during the year, October with seven cases and December five being the two heaviest months.

In most instances personal infection from a previous case has been the means by which the infection has spread.

Seven schools in all were affected. In one school where three cases were notified very quickly one after the other, the school was shut for a few days and the whole place thoroughly disinfected. No further cases occurred.

MILK SUPPLY was obviously innocent, 14 dairies being concerned in the 21 houses affected.

SMALL POX.

No case of this disease has been notified during the year.

Last year your Medical Officer referred to the unprepared state of the town should this disease make its appearance.

The subject was discussed by the Council and a Committee was appointed which still has the matter under discussion.

VACCINATION.

The following figures have been very kindly supplied by Mr. Geo. Mills, the Vaccination Officer for the Borough.

They are not complete for your district as Pilton East, part of the Borough is not in Mr. Mills's district.

Year.	Births.	Successfully vaccinated.
1909	258	84
1910	241	54
1911	256	58
1912	128	25
($\frac{1}{2}$ year up to June 30)	883	221

In the last $3\frac{1}{2}$ years practically 75 per cent. of the children born are not vaccinated.

With such an enormous unvaccinated population growing up, it has become an urgent matter that the Sanitary Authority should make some arrangements whereby any case of Small Pox that may arise in the district may be promptly and effectually isolated.

If the inhabitants of the district refuse to avail themselves of the protection against Small Pox given by vaccination, the Sanitary Authority must of necessity provide some other means of preventing the spread of the disease should it arise.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MEASLES.

Only a few cases of this disease have occurred, but there has been one death.

WHOOPING COUGH.

One death has occurred from this disease.

ANTHRAX GLANDERS AND TETANUS.

No cases have occurred.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.

There has been only one death from diarrhœa. The year has been very free indeed from this complaint.

SCHOOL INTIMATIONS of disease are regularly received, and when necessary on receipt of these the School Inspecting Medical Officer or the M.O.H. pays a visit to the school.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following table gives the deaths occurring from the seven principal Zymotic diseases during the last six years :—

Zymotic Diseases.	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
Diarrhœa	3	2	1	1	7	1
Diphtheria	1	.....	1	.....	.....	3
Measles .....	.....	2	.....	1	8	1
Scarlet Fever ...	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1
Typhoid Fever .....	.....	2	.....	.....	9	.....
Whooping Cough	15	.....	.....	8	.....	1
Total for each year	19	8	2	10	24	7

(E) PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
TUBERCULOSIS.

The past year was the first in which notification of Phthisis was compulsory. 38 were notified and 19 or 50 per cent. died.

During the year the circular letter which the Council issued for the M.O.H. has been used and the information asked for has been given as a rule by the Medical Attendants, and their hearty co-operation in this matter has done much for the smooth working of the regulations.

From February 1st, 1913, all forms of Tuberculosis are notifiable. The necessary notification forms have been sent out and with them a circular letter setting forth the duties of Medical Practitioners.

Under these new regulations the M.O.H. will have to visit every notified case in person, so that in future the form of questions sent during the past year will be discontinued.

The Medical Officer of Health has no knowledge of any arrangements that are being made by the County Authority for Sanatorium or Dispensary treatment of Tuberculosis.

Some few cases have been sent to Sanatoria and two at least are back now and at work in the town.

Several are receiving domiciliary treatment under the Insurance Act. Sanatorium treatment under the Act does not seem to be at present available.

The following table gives the death rate per 1000 living from Phthisis and other tubercular diseases during the last 7 years.

The death rate for the quinquennium 1901 to 1905 is given at the top

Year.	Deaths from Phthisis.	Deaths from other Tubercular Diseases.	Total deaths from Tuberculosis.	Rate per 1000 Population.
1901 } to 1905 }				2'04
1906	16	13	29	2'02
1907	15	4	19	1'32
1908	10	4	14	0'97
1909	13	4	17	1'17
1910	21	4	25	1'72
1911	20	1	21	1'44
* 1912	19	2	21	1'44

* Phthisis first made notifiable generally.

(F) INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

CANCER.

There were 17 deaths from Cancer, all over 45 years of age

Year	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
Deaths	25	19	16	19	20	17

PNEUMONIA.

During March, April and May this disease was very prevalent. Many cases followed Influenza, had continued high temp. and resolution by lysis.

There were 12 deaths, 18 from Bronchitis and 2 from other respiratory diseases, that is 32 in all against 23 for these complaints last year.

RHEUMATIC FEVER has not been frequent and has only accounted for one death.

INFLUENZA has been responsible for 8 deaths this year. Influenza visited us much earlier than is usual in N. Devon. As a rule it is generally noticeable that London is in the middle of an epidemic long before any cases have started here.

(G) INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of Infants under 12 months is 23.

There have been 296 births.

This gives an Infant mortality rate of 77·70 per 1000 births.

The rate for England and Wales is 86·0.

This is a most satisfactory improvement and is the best that the district has shewn for many years with the exception of 1909, when it was 70·51.

In the hopes of shewing how to improve on this rate, these deaths have been dissected into two classes, illegitimate and legitimate children.

			Death rate per 1000.
Legitimate births	279	.....
" deaths	17	.....	60·92
Illegitimate births	17	.....
" deaths	6	.....	352·94

Roughly this means that whereas 6 out of 17 illegitimates die, only one in 17 of the legitimate class is lost to the community.

If a health visitor were appointed there is every probability of saving 4 or 5 lives annually.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum is not common in this district. Most of the better midwives however are careful to cleanse the eyes of newly born babies.

On the whole, the Infant mortality of your district for this year is not excessive, it shows a considerable diminution from last year, and what is even better is well below the rate for England and Wales.

This year the inspection of midwives by the medical officer of health has been discontinued and other arrangements have been made by the County Authority.

(H) VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

BIRTHS. There were 296 births registered during the year.

The Birthrate is therefore 20·40 per 1000 living.

The rate for England and Wales is 22·6.

Barnstaple has improved its position but is still behind the rate for the whole Country.

Birth rate for 6 years :—

Year.	Number of births	Barnstaple Birth Rate per 1000 Living.	England & Wales Birth Rate per 1000 Living.
1907	281	19·55	26·3
1908	345	23·92	25·6
1909	312	21·57	26·5
1910	278	19·16	24·8
1911	300	20·79	24·4
1912	296	20·40	22·6

Rates for the quinquennium 1901 to 1905.....22·19
1906 to 1910.....20·97.

Total number of illegitimate births is 17 against 29 last year.

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths registered in the Borough was 259. Of these 36 were non-residents occurring in the Borough, and 4 occurred elsewhere, and are assignable to this district. This leaves 227 as the nett deaths belonging to the Borough.

The nett death rate is 15·64 per 1000 living.

The following table gives the number of deaths and death rates for Barnstaple during the last six years, and the corresponding rate for England and Wales is given for comparison.

Years.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	Barnstaple Death Rate per 1000.	Death Rate of England & Wales per 1000 living.
1907	223	15.53	15.0
1908	191	13.24	14.7
1909	187	12.01	14.5
1910	216	14.89	13.4
1911	234	16.15	14.6
1912	227	15.64	12.1

The following table gives an analysis of the ages of the deaths :—

Under 1 year	...	23
One year and under 2 years		5
Two years and under 5 years		4
5 years and under 15 years		10
15 years and under 25 years		11
25 years and under 45 years		20
45 years and under 65 years		46
65 years and over	...	108
		<hr/> 227 <hr/>

LONGEVITY.

A table is subjoined in accordance with custom dissecting the ages of persons who died after their 65th year.

Age period.	No. of Deaths
65—70	..... 18
70—75	..... 31
75—80	..... 16
80—85	..... 21
85—90	..... 15
90—95	..... 5
95—100	..... 1
100—105	..... 1
	<hr/> 108

One centenarian has died, this is the second within ten years

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

	Residents.	Non Residents.
North Devon Infirmary	10	14
Barnstaple Workhouse	13	22

HERBERT C. JONAS, M.D., B.S.,

M.O.H.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1912 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.	Transferable Deaths.		Under 1 year of age	At all Ages.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.		No.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	No.	Rate.
No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.				
1907	14374	281	19.55	245	17.09	22	...	38	135.23	223	15.53
1908	14418	345	23.92	211	14.63	20	...	30	86.95	191	13.24
1909	14462	312	21.57	224	15.35	37	...	22	70.51	187	12.92
1910	14506	278	19.16	234	16.13	18	...	33	118.70	216	14.89
1911	14484	300	20.70	253	17.46	28	9	32	106.66	234	16.15
1912	14508	296	20.40	259	17.85	36	4	23	77.70	227	15.64

Total population at all ages at last Census	.....	14,508
Number of inhabited houses	.....	3,539
Average number of persons per house	.....	4.09
Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	.....	2,359

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1912.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.							
	At all Ages,	Under 1 year.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and above
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	29	1	5	14	3	6	...	...
Erysipelas	8	...	...	1	1	1	3	2
Scarlet Fever...	83	..	4	65	8	6	...	...
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	4	...	...	3	1	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...
Puerperal Fever ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	38	...	1	3	6	14	12	2
Totals	162	1	10	86	19	27	15	4

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1912.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents " whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		
Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ...	...	..	...	..	...	.	...	...	...	..
Measles ...	I	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .	1	...	...	..	I	.	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	3	1	...	I	I	...	...	...	...	4
Influenza ...	8	...	...	..	1	...	I	2	4	I
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	19	...	...	1	2	2	6	7	1	3
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	I	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	I	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	11	6
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	.	...	...
Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	18	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	14	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	12	3	1	...	...	1	3	4	..	2
Other diseases of respiratory organs	2	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	1	1	..	...	...	..	..	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Alcoholism ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	10	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	4	1
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	7	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	3	4
Suicide ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	117	9	2	1	4	5	9	17	70	31	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All Causes ..	227	24	4	4	10	11	20	46	108	59	

INFANT MORTALITY. 1912. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Nett Births in	{	legitimate	279	Nett Deaths	{	legitimate	17
the year	{	illegitimate	17.	in the year	{	illegitimate	6

Report of Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Work-places, and Home-work.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices,	Prosecutions.
Factories	—	—	—
(Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops	106	—	—
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces	20	—	—
(Other than Outworkers, premises included in Part 3 of this Report)			
Total ...	126		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	7	6	...	...
Want of Ventilation	4	3	...	...
Overcrowding	2	2	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ..	.	...	...	...
Other nuisances	6	6	...	...
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
	2	2	...	...

<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	No	under ground	bakehouses.	
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	3	3	...	...
Other offences .....	..	...	...	..
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total ..	24	22	...	...

3.--HOME WORK.

Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.											
Lists received from Employers.						Outwork in Un-wholesome Premises, Section 108.		Outwork in Infected Premises, Section 108.		Prosecutions (Sections 107, 108, 109, 110)	
Twice in the year.		Once in the year.		Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists.		Instances.	Notices served.	Instances.	Orders made (S. 110).		
Lists.	Outworkers.	Lists.	Outworkers.	Lists.	Outworkers.	Instances.	Notices served.	Instances.	Orders made (S. 110).		
Con-tractors	Work-men.	Con-tractors	Work-men.	Con-tractors	Work-men.						
Wearing Apparel— Making, &c...	2	8	1	...	30	1	1	1	...

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.				
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at end of the year				No.
Dressmakers and Milliners	.....	.....	.....	33
Tailors	.....	.....	.....	22
Carpenters, Joiners, Cabinet Makers, &c.	.....	.....	.....	23
Plumbing and Smithy	.....	.....	.....	14
Various other Trades	.....	.....	.....	24
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	20
Total number of Workshops on Register ...				136

5.—OTHER MATTERS.				
Class.				No.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—				
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)				...
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s.5)				...
Other				...
Underground Bake-houses (s. 101)				No underground Bakehouses.

Meteorological Table.

	Rainfall in inches.	Number of days on which .01 inches or more rain fell.	Maximum Temperature.	Minimum Temperature.	Mean Temperature.
January ...	3.45	19	53 degs.	17 degs.	41 degs.
February ...	2.10	21	59 "	17 "	47 "
March ...	5.37	25	58 "	35 "	46 "
April ...	.37	6	69 "	28 "	48 "
May ...	1.61	12	71 "	35 "	53 "
June ...	6.91	22	70 "	39 "	56 "
July ...	4.04	18	87 "	42 "	61 "
August ...	10.09	28	66 "	37 "	55 "
September	.78	6	65 "	36 "	53 "
October ...	5.24	17	63 "	28 "	49 "
November.	2.99	19	55 "	30 "	45 "
December.	5.12	24	56 "	28 "	46 "

Thus the total rainfall for the year was 48.07 inches, and the number of rainy days 217.

The average for the preceding 62 years is 37.8 inches of rain, and 178 rainy days.

August, 1912 :—The amount of rain that fell at Barnstaple during the month was larger than that recorded there for any month during the 60 preceding years. The fall nearest to it in amount occurred in October, 1903 when 10.01 in. of rain fell.

During this 40 years period August has been the wettest month on four occasions, viz :—1873 7.19 inches.
1888 4.58 "
1892 6.08 "
1905 4.80 "

RAINFALL.—From the commencement, on January 1st, 1862, of the record of the daily rainfall at Barnstaple, the amount measured in the year 1912 has been exceeded in three years only, viz., in 1872, 57.96 inches ; in 1877, 49.53 inches ; in 1882, 53.71 inches. The number of days when .01 or more rain fell was exceeded eight times in the same period, the largest being 250 in 1872. The rain of the past 12 months was very unevenly distributed during the year. In July and August 14.13 inches fell, the average for these two months being 5.69 inches. In April and May 1.98 inches fell, the average for the same period being 4.13 inches.

TEMPERATURE.—The mean temperature of the year was a little under the average, which was exceeded in three months, viz., February 5 degs., March 3 degs., December 3 degs., while five months were under the average, viz., June 3 degs., August 5 degs., September 4 degs., October 3 degs., November 1 deg. The days of sunshine were abnormally few, and the past year must be assigned a black mark in the meteorological record.

THOS. WAINWRIGHT.

